

January 28, 2014 7:00 P.M.

JONES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR MEETING

JONES COUNTY OFFICE COMPLEX - COMMISSIONERS' ROOM

MINUTES

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Mike Haddock, Chairman

Joe Wiggins, Commissioner

Zack Koonce, III, Commissioner

OFFICIALS PRESENT:

Franky J. Howard, County Manager

Jennifer King, Clerk to the Board

Melissa Moore-Freeman, Finance Officer

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Sondra Ipock-Riggs, Vice-Chairman

Frank Emory, Commissioner

This meeting was originally scheduled for January 21, 2014, but was postponed due to inclement weather.

The Chairman called the meeting to order and gave the invocation. A **MOTION** was made by Joe Wiggins, seconded by Zack Koonce, and unanimously carried **THAT** the agenda be approved with the following addition:

10. ACCEPTANCE OF AUDIT

MOTION made by Joe Wiggins, seconded by Zack Koonce and unanimously carried **THAT** the minutes of January 6, 2014, January 6, 2014, Closed Sessions, and January 14, 2014, Special Meeting be approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

Janet Baker, citizen, stated that she was in the lobby of Social Services filling out an application for a friend at 4:40 p.m. and an employee turned off the lights while she was waiting. She spoke to Zack Koonce about this issue. She also spoke to Renae at Social Services and stated that Renae told her there were no public meetings for Social Services. Mrs. Baker stated there were three employees sitting in the front with their pocket books waiting for 5:00 p.m.

Mary Mae, citizen, is disabled and waited for two-hours to get assistance with her light bill. She stated she was given \$400 and then another worker came in and said no. Several people, including Thelma Simmons, came in and ended up only giving her \$200. She stated she came in to describe things to the workers and her issues were handled in the lobby and she felt disrespected.

Harvey Freeman, citizen, stated he would like to be informed of meetings and projects.

1. 2014 COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT APPLICATION

Charlotte Neely, Director of Family & Children's Services for Coastal Community Action, was present and introduced Patricia Benefield as well. Ms. Neely discussed the services offered by this program. The program is currently assisting nine families in the county and three families are waiting to be processed.

2. AUTOMATIC METER READING PROJECT - PAY REQUEST NUMBER 4

MOTION made by Joe Wiggins, seconded by Zack Koonce, and unanimously carried **THAT** Pay Request Number 4 for the Automatic Meter Reading Project be approved in the amount of \$26,559.50 using Automatic Meter Reading Funds.

3. POLLOCKSVILLE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT REQUEST

At previous meetings a request was made by Buddy Weatherington from Pollocksville Fire Department for funds to be paid by the county that were not collected from the State for the Firemen's Relief fund. The funding was not received by Pollocksville VFD as the paperwork was not processed timely.

MOTION made by Joe Wiggins, seconded by Zack Koonce, and unanimously carried **THAT** this request be denied. The county does not want to set a precedence of paying these funds if the deadline is missed as the county will have to do the same for all departments. The Finance Office sends several notices regarding these deadlines and is now sending letters via certified mail in order to ensure all members sign for the information.

4. SURPLUS ITEMS

MOTION made by Joe Wiggins, seconded by Zack Koonce, and unanimously carried **THAT** a 1997 Ford Crown Victoria (Vin 2FALP71W8VX117585) that was last used by the jail staff and an HP LG Plotter (Serial SG06M33108) that was used by the GIS Coordinator be sold as surplus items.

5. CDBG MONTHLY REPORTS

The CDBG monthly reports for December were presented to the Board for information purposes only.

6. 911 PROJECT FUND TRANSFER

MOTION made by Joe Wiggins, seconded by Zack Koonce, and unanimously carried **THAT** Jones County's share of 911 funds for the 911 project be transferred to Lenoir County. This is a requirement of the consolidation per the State 911 Board.

7. NC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION AGRICULTURE AGENT POSITION REQUEST

MOTION made by Joe Wiggins, seconded by Zack Koonce, and unanimously carried **THAT** the Agriculture Agent for Jones County be shared with Lenoir County at the suggestion of Ivy Reid, Extension Director. The agent will be housed in Lenoir County with scheduled time dedicated to the office in Jones County.

8. TAX COLLECTIONS REPORT - DECEMBER

Mr. Howard shared the December Tax Collections Report with the Board showing a total collection of \$4,283,920.65 (73.21%).

9. INVOICE - SUMRELL, SUGG, CARMICHAEL, HICKS & HART, P.A.

MOTION made by Zack Koonce, seconded by Joe Wiggins, and unanimously carried **THAT** invoices for services rendered by Sumrell, Sugg, Carmichael, Hicks & Hart, P.A. be approved as follows:

General Legal	\$2,212.47
2011 CDBG Catalyst	\$1,763.50
HMGP Buyout Program	\$755.75
EDC	\$1,919.01

10. ACCEPTANCE OF AUDIT REPORT

MOTION made by Zack Koonce, seconded Joe Wiggins, and carried **THAT** the 2012-2013 Audit Report be accepted as presented during the special meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Russell Metts, citizen, expressed his concerns over tax hikes and the revaluation. He stated that taxes will increase until people can't afford them and it is a conspiracy to eliminate personal property. The commissioners should find ways to eliminate the burden on tax payers and should look into sales tax as a solution. He also mentioned contacting Harry Brown and Pat McElraft.

Joey Collins, citizen, requested information related to the Tax Collection Report. Mr. Howard provided information from the report. Mr. Collins stated he looked at several bills and property went down and structure went up in value. He also stated the county shouldn't patch up vehicles for the Senior Center as the elderly deserve better. He stated there is tobacco money and DMV money.

Mary Mae stated her brother had cancer and died. She stated DSS wrote a letter that she took to the Tax Office and they did nothing. She stated she had to pay Mark Bardill and she shouldn't have to pay Mark Bardill when she tried to pay the bill at the Tax Office. She stated Mark is never there and we are making him rich.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

There was no report.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS

There were no reports.

MOTION made by Joe Wiggins, seconded by Zack Koonce, and unanimously carried **THAT** the meeting be adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Mike Haddock
Chairman

Jennifer King
Clerk to the Board